Long-term Grain Export Policy

4555. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has evolved a long-term Grain Export Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this policy has been implemented; and

(d) if not, by when it would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (d) In view of the huge buffer stock available in the country, India has emerged as a prominent exporter of foodgrains. The quantitative restrictions on export of foodgrains from the Central Pool have been removed subject to the condition that the stocks in the Central Pool will not be lower than the buffer stock of 243 lakh MTs (100 lakh MTs of rice and 143 lakh MTs of wheat) at any point of time. A series of measures have been taken to promote exports. The problems on this front are being constantly monitored and appropriate solutions evolved.

Foodgrains distributed free of cost

†4556. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will tthe Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1857 given in the Rajya Sabha on 6th December, 2001 and state:

(a) the details of the foodgrains distributed free of cost as per order of his Ministry;

(b) the number of districts where these foodgrains were distributed alongwith the number of its beneficiaries and also the minimum and maximum quantity of foodgrains distributed to a person or a family as rice, wheat or flour; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the number of bidders, the sale price of the foodgrains and the quantity-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) As per the information now received, 226 tonnes of rice and 81 tonnes of wheat was distributed free of cost in Uttaranchal for preparation of cattle feed.

(b) The above quantities of foodgrains were issued to Pashu Ahar Nirmanshala, Rudrapur (Udham Singh Nagar) which is an undertaking of the Government of Uttaranchal, for preparation of cattle feed. According to the utilization certificate furnished by the said undertaking, the quantities of foodgrains received by them from FCI during 2001-2002, were utilized for preparation of cattle feed only and not for any other purpose.

(c) 136.9 tonnes of rice was disposed of through tender to M/s. Ganesh Ind. Chamber, Mumbai @Rs.251.99 per qtl.

Setting up of Consumer Courts

4557. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the financial assistance made to the State Governments for setting up of consumer courts during the last three years; and

(b) the details of the financial assistance made to Tamil Nadu during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Central Government have not provided any financial assistance to the States/UTs for setting up of consumer forums. However, to supplement their efforts, the Central Government have provided One-Time-Grant of Rs. 61.80 crores to the States and UTs to strengthen the infrastructure of the consumer forums during the period 1995-99. One-Time-Grant of Rs. 2.70 crores has been provided to the Government of Tamil Nadu during the said period.